

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 26561 131023Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /078 W
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P 131005Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0912
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 26561

EO 22652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, CP, TH, BM, JA
SUBJ: THAI TEAM TO VISIT PHNOM PENH REGARDING OPENING
EMBASSY

REF: BANGKOK 22497

1. MFA INFORMED US SEPT 23 THAT A THAI TEAM HEADED BY
THAI-KHMER LIAISON OFFICER IN ARANYAPRATHET, CHAMRAT
CHOMPUPHONG, WILL DEPART BANGKOK SEPT 14 FOR PEKING
AND PROCEED SEPT 16 TO PHNOM PENH TO MAKE PREPARATIONS
FOR OPENING THE RTG EMBASSY IN KAMPUCHEA. GROUP IS
EXPECTED TO STAY FOR TWO WEEKS. MFA TOLD US THAT THE
CABINET HAS APPROVED THE OPENING OF THE EMBASSY AND
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 26561 131023Z

THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AMBASSADOR TO PHNOM PENH, FOLLOW-
ING RECEIPT OF MESSAGES FROM KAMPUCHEAN DEPUTY PM IENG
SARY CONFIRMING THAT A THAI EMBASSY WOULD BE WELCOME.
OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT THE EMBASSY WILL PROBABLY BE FOR-
MALLY OPENED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS BY AN AMBASSADOR OR
CHARGE.

2. DESPITE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM THE THAIS, PHNOM PENH HAS NOT YET CONFIRMED WHEN IT WILL OPEN ITS EMBASSY IN BANGKOK. HOWEVER, THAI EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE HAS RECEIVED HINTS FROM THE KHMER THERE THAT KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR TO LAOS, SAM SAN, WILL MOVE TO BANGKOK TO BECOME ENVOY TO THAILAND.

3. MFA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT BOTH VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA SEEM TO PLAN TO USE BANGKOK AS A PROPAGANDA CENTER.

4. ACCORDING TO OTHER PRESS REPORTS WHICH WE HAVE CONFIRMED INDIRECTLY, KAMPUCHEAN DEPUTY PM IENG SARY HAS INVITED FORMER THAI PM KHUKRIT PRAMOT TO VISIT PHNOM PENH TO "FURTHER IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND KAMPUCHEA." A DATE HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN SET. ACCORDING TO A BANGKOK POST REPORT, FORMER RTG FONMIN CHATCHAI CHUNHAWEN HAS ALSO BEEN INVITED BY IENG SARY TO VISIT PHNOM PENH TO DISCUSS OPENING ANGKOR WAT TO TOURISTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, CHATCHAI, AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ERAWAN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, LTD., WOULD DISCUSS DETAILS OF DAILY FLIGHTS FROM BANGKOK TO SIEM REAP, NEAR ANGKOR WAT. THE DAILY ROUND TRIP FLIGHTS WOULD PERMIT TOURISTS TWO OR THREE HOURS TO VISIT THE RUINS.

5. COMMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN
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PAGE 03 BANGKO 26561 131023Z

KAMPUCHEA AND INDONESIA AND SWITZERLAND, AGREEMENT BY THE KHMER TO RECEIVE RESIDENT BURMESE AND THAI MISSIONS, PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER BY JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SHOJI SATO, AND TROUPE OF ROMANIANS, BELGIANS, DANES AND TURKS WHICH RECENTLY PASSED THROUGH PHNOM PENH ARE SIGNS OF SLIGHTLY MORE OPENNESS IN PHNOM PENH. THEY ALSO APPEAR TO REFLECT PHNOM PENH'S CONCERN OVER ITS ISOLATION IN THE FACE OF DEEPENING DIFFICULTIES WITH VIETNAM. RTG IS, OF COURSE, GRATIFIED THAT ITS PATIENT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DIRECT LINKS WITH PHNOM PENH ARE FINALLY PAYING OFF. ABRAMOWITZ

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